

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Boucher Testifies Against Legalizing “Medical Marijuana”



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk, testified before the legislature’s Judiciary Committee that legalizing marijuana as “medicine” sends the wrong signal to Connecticut children who are taught not to use drugs.

“Just after passing stringent new laws to ban tobacco smoking in public places, it would be counterproductive to relax the use of marijuana. I continue to strongly hold this view,” said Rep. Boucher.

Rep. Boucher said smoked marijuana contains hundreds of chemicals that have not been studied by scientists, and that the element of marijuana used for treating nausea is available without the harmful side effects of smoking marijuana.

She said in her testimony, “Recent medical advances have derived drugs from the marijuana plant that can be administered without the impure toxic chemicals contained in crude smoked marijuana. We can be compassionate to sick people by encouraging the use of safe, effective medicines recommended by modern pharmaceutical science, the medical profession and federal regulators such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.”

Rep. Boucher also recounted the experience of Norwalk mother Ginger Katz of the Courage to Speak Foundation who lost a son to a drug overdose after he started using marijuana at age 14.

She quoted Ms. Katz as saying, "I am pleading with you because I believe legalizing so-called medical marijuana will only make marijuana more available to Connecticut's children. I lost my beloved son on September 10, 1996. He was a college student and athlete. He had a bright future ahead of him, but it turns out he had started using a little bit of pot at age 14. By the time he was 18, he was using cocaine and, at age 19, heroin. He died in his sleep of an overdose. He was 20 years old. The implicit message this bill sends to children is that marijuana is OK because it's ‘medicine’."